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Inspector General Reports on Cochran Released Earlier This Week

(ST. LOUIS, MO) – Russ Carnahan (MO-3) released the following statement in response to the announcement that the John Cochran VA Medical Center has reopened its surgical suites for operations. The surgical unit was shut down on February 2nd after staff raised concerns about possible sterilization problems with surgical equipment.

“I sincerely hope this is a step forward in the effort to make excellence the standard of care at Cochran.”

“As the reports released this week by the Inspector General’s office indicate, the problems at this facility have been chronic and persistent.□ There is a reason why Cochran has received the lowest patient satisfaction scores in the entire country, and I will not rest in my efforts to turn that around.

“That being said, I do believe that Director Nelson is equally committed to improving care at Cochran.□ I am eager to work with her and with the VA to make sure veterans in St. Louis get the same quality care that veterans all across the country receive. ”

Earlier this week, the Inspector General for the Department of Veterans’ Affairs released its report on an investigation conducted at Cochran, and provided recommendations designed to correct chronic problems related to how the hospital processes and cleans medical equipment. The report is available [here](#) , on the VA website. A [second report](#) – related to concerns expressed by Cochran nursing staff regarding unavailable or broken equipment and other problems – was also released.

In 2010, Carnahan was one of only 20 “exceptional leaders” to earn a perfect A+ rating on veterans’ issues from the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America Action Fund. He is a member of the Health Subcommittee on the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

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